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then pulled into the dump area and unloaded 10 bags and two large boxes onto the floor. She then had to drive back around to the scales, weigh again, pay and taking even more time in the lines before leaving. We went over to the booth to see what she had paid, and to our astonishment, she only paid \$1.37 based on the weight of the load. Obviously, this was not fair to most who pay by the bag.

Q. Why did the county go from no minimum fee to \$10.00 minimum fee to cross the scales?

A. This is the number the contractor recommended to us in order to assure that the new area we just completed and built would be properly used. Otherwise, they said the general public would continue to use the old dump including all the people from out of town.

Q. Why do you care if the public uses the old or the new area to dispose of their garbage?

A. Time, convenience and safety! Because the building and weighing your load was always designed for only commercial or large loads, it is not safe and never has been to have commercial trucks and trailers mixed in with cars. In addition, the public had to walk and drag their bags of garbage across the concrete floor that was always a complete mess and it stinks. In addition, since everyone was crossing the scales, it took much longer causing the lines to backup for several minutes.

Q. How does the new area of the Transfer Station make this all work better?

A. With the new system, you simply follow the new road, pull up to the booth, pay the per bag fee and go drop it in any one of the 16 containers. If your bags are too heavy, you can simply lay them beside one of the bins. This new process takes less than 5 minutes and the recycling building is right next to the containers and you can unload your recyclables at the same time. Also, you have a very scenic view while you are there and it is clean and does not stink, and most of all it is so much safer.

Q. Is there a downside

to the new process?

A. The new area does require that all garbage be in bags, which is the only way it can remain clean and neat. You do need to plan ahead. If you are cleaning out a garage and have items that may not fit in a bag, then you need to see if they are recyclable such as metal, refrigerators, washers, sinks, or other similar items. In order to prevent the \$10.00 minimum fee, you can drive around to the new side and the attendant will give you a ticket of a much reduced price. You can then drive back around to the scales, pay the lady with the ticket and dump the recyclable items in the designated places.

Q. Do most people like the new system?

The vast majority of the people using the new area love it and the convenience of using it. We suggest that if you use small kitchen bags, that you combine them into a larger bag to save money. The people at the transfer station are very nice and will work with you any way possible. But if you have a trailer or pickup load, be sure it contains an adequate amount to cover the minimum \$10.00 charge you must pay to cross the scales to unload it into the old dump building.

Q. Will there be other improvements in the future at the Transfer Station?

A. Yes. Next year we will be redoing completely the current transfer building, with a new floor and basically a new structure, which should again improve the process. If you have any questions or comments or complaints, please give us a call at my office 706-439-6000 or feel free to talk to the people on duty at the transfer station.

Q. Who operates the Transfer Station?

A. Advanced Disposal has the county contract on the facility and is responsible for providing all the manpower and collection and hauling of all garbage from this facility as well as the new convenience center at Hwy. 515/Hwy. 325 intersection. We really appreciate their cooperation in working with us through the new construction. If you need to call them, 706-632-6519.

Allison ...

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other requirements, such as job duties, may be exempt from being paid overtime.

Once the new law is enacted, if you are a salaried employee making less than \$913 per week and your job duties are not ones that fit the criteria to be exempt from overtime, then your employer may be required to pay you overtime. There are certain types of jobs that currently are exempt and will remain that way going forward.

There are bills currently in Congress to try and increase the salary threshold incrementally over the next few years instead of immediately. Without any legislation being passed at this point, I have heard repeatedly in different seminars to be prepared to implement these changes effective December 1, 2016.

If you are an employer that currently awards compensatory time in lieu of overtime, the new law may impact you as well. You may be required to pay overtime to employees who work over 40 hours in a week and no longer have the option to award compensatory time to your employees. There are certain industries that will still be allowed to award comp time, such as government agencies.

To help employers get ready for the changes, the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce aired the first of a 2 part webinar on September 29th which covered changes to the overtime rule. The second part of the webinar will be aired at the Union County Community Center in the upstairs ballroom on Thursday, October 27th from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. This webinar will be an interactive panel discussion of business leaders and human resources professionals sharing their knowledge and plans for implementing the new overtime law. There is no fee to attend. This webinar is just another free benefit for our Chamber Members. We hope to see you there.

For more information, you can call the Chamber Office at 706-745-5789 or email me at president@blairsville-chamber.com.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

Owenby and Mr. Paris developed an economic plan for his farm for the year 1938 and in that plan Mr. Owenby was able to double his profit because of his wise management of his farming operation.

Mr. Hancock then asked Mr. Paris to comment on agricultural income of Union County Farmers. Mr. Paris stated, "In 1937 the average family grew 1 acre of potatoes, 1.5 acres of beans and 1/2 acre of cabbage.

From these three sources, plus the sale of livestock products, the average farm family netted an income of \$177.50.

Today, we have a healthy agricultural industry in Union County. But, the reason we do is because of people that preceded us. Paul Paris and James Owenby laid the foundation for today's Union County Ag Industry. I hope you enjoyed today's column. I know I enjoyed putting it together.

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ettes on the roadways as they can ignite the dry grass as well as trailer chains as they can drag along the road and cause a spark. Officials also said the public should use extreme caution with campfires as they can spread as well if not tended properly and fully extinguished. Per the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest website, "Firefighters are battling a wildfire in Walker County, GA that began in the early morning hours of October 5. The wildfire, now approximately 70 acres in size, is on the Chattahoochee National Forest and on private land. Due to exceptional drought conditions in northwest Georgia, the fire is expected to increase in size.

The "Strawberry Mountain" wildfire is presenting active fire behavior including head runs up the mountain and backing fire with three-foot flame lengths. It began on private land and is currently threatening three primary residences and Colonial pipeline. The cause of the fire is un-

known now. The wildfire is being managed under unified command between the U.S. Forest Service and Georgia Forestry Commission. Current resources on site include three dozers, two engines, two Type 3 helicopters, one squad of firefighters, and three overhead personnel. An additional ten-person squad has been ordered and will be in place Thursday morning.

Please think before you burn and in the present conditions just don't burn at all; the risk is just too great. A wildfire can destroy in a matter of hours everything in its path that will take many years to recover back to what it was before the fire.

Be careful, be cautious, and be Firewise. Let's keep our forests like they are now for all to enjoy. For more information on wildfires contact your local Georgia Forestry Commission office or the US Forest Service office or Frank Riley, Chest/Chatt RC&D at info.ccrd@gmail.com.

Drugs ... continued from Page 4A

heroin. Right now the heroin that is being sold on the streets is very pure, very strong and very often mixed with other stronger drugs, leading to deadly results.

We are at a standstill in the growing opiate epidemic. It seems as though the more it is fought against, the stronger it becomes. Everyday there's a news headlines about overdoses, bad batches and deaths all over the country. Most heroin addicts started their addiction

using painkillers, innocently enough, not knowing what it would turn into. The most important thing for any family of an opiate addict is to intervene now and get them into treatment. The right treatment can be the difference between life and death. Don't be afraid to approach them or cause them to get upset. The most important thing is to get them the help they need so they don't turn into another meaningless statistic in the opiate crisis.

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kill, and destroy. We are to resist, not embrace it.

God wants us to seek Him. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:7-8). God has revealed Himself to be near us and for us, so "let us draw near

with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). By grace through faith in Christ it is we that are holy ("saints" 1 Cor. 1:2), not a date on a calendar.

Chief...

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proper fire and burning safety.

Another area that a citizen can protect their home and property is through proper Firewise practices. Firewise is a program designed to educate and prepare homeowners on how to protect their homes and neighborhoods from wildland fires. We encourage everyone to participate in the Firewise program to learn how to better prepare their homes and property. For more information on Firewise, contact Union County Fire Department or visit <http://firewise.org>.

~Union County Fire Department – Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Mattee...

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are ready to shell them.

When you are ready to enjoy your walnuts, soak them in hot water the day before to prevent the kernels from shattering upon shelling. Nutmeat can be refrigerated for nine months, or frozen for even longer to use at a later date.

**Bell Ringing Union
County Old Courthouse**



October 1, 2016
In memory of
Bill Meeks Birthday
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

October 15, 2016
in memory of
Peter Vergari Birthday
by family

October 18, 2016
in memory of
**Michael David Fowler
Birthday**
by John and Andrea Fowler
& Nana and Grandad

October 22, 2016
In memory of
John J. Meeks Birthday
by Ginger and Terry Meeks

**Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493**